



NEWS RELEASE

February 21, 2003

Juveniles Arrested Smuggling Marijuana

East County Youths Caught with more than 500 Pounds

CHULA VISTA, Calif. – Two juveniles from Boulevard were arrested this morning after Border Patrol agents discovered more than 500 pounds of marijuana in their vehicle.

Agents noticed a pick-up truck parked in close proximity to the border near Jacumba, California at around 9:00 AM. The truck left the border area and drove onto Old Highway 80 when Border Patrol agents, suspecting the occupants were involved in smuggling, requested some assistance from a Border Patrol helicopter. As the vehicle pulled onto eastbound Interstate 8, agents noticed several large duffel bags in the bed of the truck,

The driver, aware that agents were following and a helicopter was overhead, yielded without incident. More than 509 pounds of marijuana, with an estimated national street value in excess of \$356,300, were discovered in the truck.

The driver of the truck, a 17-year-old U.S. citizen from Boulevard, along with his 15-year-old brother, was arrested at the scene. Agents from the DEA took custody of the narcotics and youths.

~ USBP ~